United Nations A/C.5/53/SR.3

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
27 November 1998
English
Original: French

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 October 1998, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Abelian ..... (Armenia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Organization of work

Agenda item 113: Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Development Account

Agenda item 143: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Death and disability benefits

Agenda item 112: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Agenda item 119: Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Government and other entities

Other matters

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98-81432 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.5/53/L.1/Rev.1 and A/C.5/53/L.2/Rev.1)

1. **The Chairman** introduced document A/C.5/53/L.2/Rev.1 containing the revised programme of work of the Fifth Committee, to which the Bureau had made the following changes: on page 7, Monday, 12 October, under agenda item 112, the first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) should be added; and on page 10, Thursday, 22 October, and Friday, 23 October, the mention of agenda item 145 should be deleted. He pointed out that consideration of the agenda item relating to human resources management could not begin in October because all the relevant reports would not be available. With regard to the consideration of the proposed budget outline for the biennium 2000–2001, the Bureau wished to point out that ACABQ had stated that it would only be able to take up that question and advise the Committee when it had received the latest figures available on rates of exchange and inflation rates.

2. He also drew attention to document A/C.5/53/L.1/Rev.1, which contained revised information on the status of preparedness of documentation. Lastly, he informed the Committee that, in response to the letter which he had addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services concerning the late distribution of documents in the conference room on Friday, 18 September 1998, he had received assurances that efforts would be made to ensure that sufficient time was allowed between the printing of documents and their consideration in meetings. Those responsible for the distribution of documents had been instructed to open the documents booths well in advance of the starting time of meetings.

3. With regard to the request for interpretation services made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he suggested that that request should be communicated directly to the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

4. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed a number of formal, rather than substantive, changes to the Committee's programme of work. On page 19, the subheading "Procurement reform" under agenda item 112 (Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations) should read "Procurement reform and outsourcing", since outsourcing was the subject of several of the documents to be considered. The note by the Secretary-General on the impact of the implementation of pilot projects on budgetary practices and procedures (A/52/852) should be listed under both agenda item 112 (Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations) and agenda item 30 (United Nations reform: Measures and proposals). Moreover, the Secretariat should specify what questions would be considered under the heading "Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999" under agenda item 113. Lastly, in view of the Committee's very full timetable, the members of the Group of 77 and China hoped that it would be possible, whenever a meeting ended earlier than expected, to continue to utilize the remaining time and conference services made available to the Committee.

5. **The Chairman** took note of the proposed changes and said that the Secretariat would, at the appropriate time, and in accordance with the instructions received from the Bureau, specify which questions would be considered under agenda item 113.

6. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Comoros), speaking on a point of order, asked that mention should be made in the report of the Committee on Contributions of the request made by the Comoros for an exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations. He hoped that the Committee would consider the matter at the current session.

7. **The Chairman** took note of that request and, recalling that Tajikistan had made a similar request, said that the Committee would consider the question during the informal consultations scheduled for the next day.

8. He took it that the Committee approved the work programme set out in document A/C.5/53/L.2/Rev.1.

9. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 113: Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Development Account (A/52/1009; A/53/7/Add.1)

10. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that it would have before it at a later meeting the report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of the development dividend (A/53/374), which was currently being considered by the Advisory Committee.

11. **Mr. Connor** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) introduced the proposals concerning the Development Account drawn up by the Secretary-General pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 52/235 (para. 4) and the comments made by delegations and ACABQ. The report of the Secretary-

General could be summed up under four key points: measures to increase productivity were applicable to the whole Secretariat; the measures proposed would be submitted to ACABQ and to the Fifth Committee in connection with the proposed programme budget; the estimates would constitute management targets to attain productivity gains and could be adjusted; productivity gains would be verified before proposals for redeployment of resources were submitted to ACABQ and the Fifth Committee; project proposals would be drawn up once the amount of resources released had been approved and redeployed; ACABQ and the Fifth Committee would have to approve projects in connection with the programme budget.

12. Those proposals were aimed at improving productivity in the Organization. They should enable the Secretariat to streamline and simplify administrative procedures, to derive full benefit from modern technology and to eliminate duplication. As chief administrative officer, the Secretary-General was determined to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in order to devote more resources to programme implementation. It was in that spirit that he had proposed the creation of the Development Account, which would serve to finance activities in the economic and social sectors. The Secretariat was convinced that it was possible to work more efficiently without detriment to the quality of services.

13. With regard to viability, only funds released as a result of sustainable savings would be susceptible to redeployment to the Development Account, and resources would be transferred in accordance with a cumulative process until Member States decided otherwise. Similarly, funds deposited in the Account would be utilized on the basis of proposals for activities submitted to Member States. From the budgetary standpoint, the operation would consist in transferring resources from one section to another. The Secretariat hoped that Member States would be in favour of a concept which had already received the support of ACABQ and that they would therefore maintain the amount of the budgetary appropriations. The Member States would control the process and it was they who would have to take the decision to implement it.

14. With reference to the efforts made to enhance the efficiency of the Organization, he said that the Secretariat intended to introduce six major types of measures, as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report of the Secretary-General. Some of the measures were described in detail in annex I. More complete information would be submitted in the proposed programme budget.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/53/7/Add.1), said that it had limited its consideration to policy issues contained in the Secretary-General's report, leaving aside for the moment the annexes and the report on the utilization of the development dividend (A/53/374). The Advisory Committee welcomed the fact that a number of the recommendations contained in its earlier reports had been taken into account.

16. In paragraph 14 the Advisory Committee expressed the opinion that consideration of the reports on the utilization of the development dividend during the biennium 1998–1999 should proceed on an ad hoc basis. In paragraph 4 it reaffirmed that transfer of resources associated with efficiency gains was not a budget reduction exercise. That exercise should not affect the amount of the resources approved by the General Assembly. Lastly, for the sake of clarity the Advisory Committee recommended that section 34 of the programme budget should be entitled "Supplementary development activities" instead of "Development Account".

17. **Mr. Manz** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and, in addition, Iceland and Norway, said that the European Union had supported the Secretary-General's proposal to create a dividend for development from the very beginning, and had joined the consensus on the creation of the Development Account. Despite the concerns raised by a number of delegations, the European Union was convinced that it was in the interest of all Member States to adopt the Secretary-General's proposal, since the Development Account was an integral part of the programme for the reform of the Organization.

18. Efficiency savings need not necessarily mean overall cuts in budgets. All programme managers had a responsibility to increase the efficiency of the Organization. It was not acceptable to waive such responsibility for any area or activity. Nevertheless, efficiency measures should not negatively affect mandated activities. The European Union concurred with the Secretary-General's proposal that the General Assembly should verify that productivity gains, once achieved, did not have an adverse impact on programme delivery. Further, the European Union agreed with the modalities for identifying gains and transferring funds, and with the proposal to include in the proposed programme budget information on initiatives to improve productivity and expand development resources. That indication need not be exhaustive or impose constraints on the ability of programme managers to look for efficiency

measures. Overall responsibility for efficiency measures should remain within the purview of the Secretary-General; such measures were not subject to prior approval by the General Assembly.

19. **Mr. Watanabe** (Japan) said that the Committee had been unable to come to an agreement on the Development Account at the resumed session in May 1998, since it had not had sufficient information on such important points as the sustainability and modalities of implementation of the Account. The Secretary-General's report, however, made it clear that productivity improvements meant redeployment of resources, including staffing levels. That seemed natural since more than 70 per cent of the Organization's budget related to human resources costs.

20. According to the Secretary-General's and Advisory Committee's reports, Member States were supposed to be informed of efficiency gains in detail in the first performance report, to be submitted for their approval. They were then also to approve transfer of the corresponding amount to the Development Account. The General Assembly would, however, have no choice but to approve the transfer of the proposed amount, whereas were it informed before the performance report was submitted, it could make other choices regarding the allocation of funds. It would also be good for Member States to be given detailed information in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, or at the latest at the start of the biennium, on where the amount of $40 million in productivity gains indicated in the Secretary-General's report came from and where it would be allocated to.

21. His delegation would like the Under-Secretary-General for Management to confirm to the Fifth Committee that no target for efficiency gains had been set for each department. To secure sound and appropriate implementation of the budget, an effort should be made to avoid systematic reductions in all departments, as had already occurred.

22. His delegation was concerned about the possible negative impact of efficiency gains on staffing levels. On the other hand, it endorsed the provisions of paragraph 5, on the scope of the Development Account, and paragraph 18, concerning the Development Account treated as a multi-year project, of the Secretary-General's report. Lastly, he recalled the principle that surpluses accruing from currency fluctuations and recosting for inflation should be returned to Member States in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules.

23. **Mr. Kabir** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation attached great importance to the establishment of the Development Account, as an essential element in the reform process. However, it was regrettable that although an amount of $13 million had been transferred under section 34 of the programme budget, no satisfactory guidelines for generating savings and for the use of the Account had been produced. Nevertheless, he thanked the Secretary-General for having sought to present detailed and acceptable proposals, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/235.

24. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report, he wished to know what kind of relationship the Secretariat envisaged between productivity gains directed towards the Development Account and new mandates and activities that might be decided in the future. Further, the major types of efficiency measures, set out in annex I to the report, seemed incompatible with the Secretary-General's wish to achieve productivity gains without affecting the overall level of budgetary resources and the Advisory Committee's recommendation that savings should be applied to the Secretariat as a whole. In that regard he recalled that several delegations had already expressed their concern regarding the pilot project at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and conference services.

25. On the question of sustainability, the question of how long efficiency gains could be derived remained unanswered. In that regard, he wished to know what the Under-Secretary-General meant by "savings of a lasting nature". He endorsed the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 9 and 10 of its report.

26. Noting that it was not the Secretary-General's intention to involuntarily separate staff as a result of the redeployment of resources, he supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 13 of its report that comprehensive information should be supplied on that matter in the context of normal reporting procedures. His delegation agreed with the principles outlined in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the Secretary-General's report on the creation of the Account and performance criteria. Nevertheless, he wished to know how the projects and activities financed by the Account would fit into the medium-term plan and what the basis had been for selection of the three areas identified for use of resources from the Account (para. 23). What the developing countries needed was not greater understanding of the problems posed by globalization, but low-cost, low-technology support. Lastly, his delegation remained flexible on the Advisory Committee's proposal to change the title of section 34 of the programme budget.

27. **Mr. Cho** (Republic of Korea) said that his country had consistently supported the Secretary-General's reform initiatives, in which context he attached particular

importance to the Development Account. Noting that there seemed to be general support among Member States for redeploying efficiency gains to development projects, his delegation hoped that they would be able to reach consensus on that point so that the Development Account could be speedily implemented.

28. As ACABQ had pointed out, the Development Account should not be a budget reduction exercise. On the contrary, it should represent a true saving, rather than the result of underexpenditure due to postponement of activities or inability to carry out approved programmes. In other words, the level and quality of services should not be compromised. In that regard, he recalled paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 52/235, which stated that the amount of 200 million dollars suggested by the Secretary-General was an indicative target and that no time-frame should be specified for reaching the target. The same applied to the estimated $40 million productivity improvements for the biennium 2000–2001 mentioned in paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report (A/52/1009), concerning which his delegation looked forward to a detailed report by the Secretary-General. His delegation was also mindful of the view expressed by ACABQ in paragraph 10 of document A/53/7/Add.1 that gains from currency fluctuation and inflation would not be available for transfer to the Development Account.

29. His delegation welcomed the proposed efficiency measures contained in annex I of the Secretary-General's report (A/52/1009), as it attached great importance to the simplification of processes. The main thrust of the current United Nations reform was to improve productivity and the simplest way of doing so was to eradicate bureaucratic redundancies whereby, for example, the average time needed to recruit a staff member was 460 days. In addition, programme managers should be given enhanced flexibility so that they could better respond to their operational and staffing needs. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's efforts to delegate more authority to programme managers in the areas of human and financial resources management, although appropriate monitoring procedures and a measure of accountability should obviously be established prior to the delegation of such authority.

30. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendation that funds appropriated for the Development Account should be treated as a multi-year project and that any balance of appropriation for the Account at the end of a biennium should be carried forward to the succeeding biennium. It also agreed that information on unspent balances should be supplied in the context of performance reports. In that connection, it regretted the rather delayed submission by the Secretariat of a plan to use some $13 million appropriated for the Development Account for the biennium 1998–1999, as a result of which the total appropriated amount was not likely to be expended during the current biennium.

31. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation for utilizing the Development Account to assist developing countries to follow-up United Nations conferences and improve the networking of experts in order to promote an enhanced appreciation of global economic and social issues, broaden the benefits of the process of globalization and avoid marginalization of the developing countries, especially the least developed countries.

32. Finally, the establishment of clear performance indicators was a key prerequisite to meaningful evaluation of the achievements of the development process. Those indicators should be project-specific, as proposed by the Secretary-General, and directly linked to the expected results of each project. His delegation also noted the Secretary-General's view that involuntary separation of staff should be avoided to the maximum extent possible, and it therefore hoped that more efforts would be directed to adequate retraining for staff redeployment.

33. **Mr. Connor** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), responding to questions raised by delegations, informed the Japanese representative that the Secretariat intended to provide information concerning efficiency gains in the first budget performance report. Although Japan regarded that timing as too late, only incomplete information could be circulated in advance of the report, as time was needed to draw up details of the intended utilization. In that spirit, ACABQ had approved the modalities proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 9 to 11 of his report (A/52/1009). In reply to the question on the source and utilization of the $20 million arising from the efficiency gains mentioned in the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, the Secretary-General decided which of the savings achieved through efficiency gains should be included in the programme budget proposals, and which of them belonged to programme planning at a later stage, once the necessary checks had been made. It was for the Member States to come to a decision concerning that apportionment on the basis of the information transmitted to them. No definite target had been fixed, although talks with programme directors had provided a general idea of what was feasible. The Secretariat would be in a position to review the possibilities only after considering with the programme directors their proposals for the programme budget and after Member States had approved the budget outline. The question of savings from gains on exchange

would not arise in 1998; on the contrary, losses on exchange would be recorded.

34. Replying to the comments of the representative of Bangladesh, he said that the pilot projects (at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for example) were simply an experimental tool that would be evaluated before details were presented to Member States. He reaffirmed that no final decision had been taken on the sum to be allocated to the Development Account (the original amount of $20 million having been scrapped) and that it was a matter for Member States to decide. The Secretariat would include information in its budget performance report on the efficiency gains achieved, on redeployment possibilities and on the staff who might be affected.

35. Replying to questions raised by the representative of the Republic of Korea concerning the utilization of resources allocated to the Development Account, he said that it was up to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to make proposals after ACABQ had submitted its report.

Agenda item 143: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations:

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Support account for peacekeeping operations (A/52/837 and Corr.1 and A/52/982; A/53/418)

Death and disability benefits (A/C.5/53/16)

36. **The Chairman** stated that in resolution 52/248 of 6 June 1998 on the support account for peacekeeping operations, the General Assembly noted that ACABQ intended to report, in September 1998, after completing its post-by-post consideration on the basis of the information provided, on the workload of all posts, in accordance with resolutions 51/243 and 51/239 A, and would welcome the advice of ACABQ, as well as that of the Secretary-General, on the structure of the departments dealing with the backstopping of peacekeeping operations, including issues of coordination and overlap. It was that ACABQ report (A/53/418) which was before the Fifth Committee.

37. On the subject of death and disability benefits, the Committee had before it a note from the Secretary-General containing his quarterly report on the progress made in clearing the backlog of claims awaiting processing for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1998 (A/C.5/53/16).

38. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the ACABQ report (A/53/418), said that since document A/52/837 had been submitted late and was of poor quality the Advisory Committee had not produced an interim report at its spring session, pending receipt of information on which it could base such a report. Pending the post-by-post consideration, the General Assembly had approved 400 of the 469 posts requested by the Secretary-General.

39. The Advisory Committee had noted only very slight improvements in the quality of the information submitted to it. Corrections had been communicated virtually up to the last day of its consideration of the Secretary-General's report. A list of corrections would be found in annex I of the ACABQ report. Furthermore, the information requested by the Fifth Committee had not been available, as the Advisory Committee indicated in the relevant paragraphs of its report.

40. The Advisory Committee now recommended approval of 393 support account posts: 346 posts had been approved for the period ending 30 June 1998, and the Advisory Committee recommended reducing to 47 the net number of additional posts requested by the Secretariat (123 posts). It understood that the almost two-thirds decline in the volume of peacekeeping operations did not necessarily mean that backstopping should immediately undergo a reduction of the same size, and it knew that a large part of backstopping was provided by gratis personnel, whose use the General Assembly had decided should be gradually phased out (the Secretary-General was therefore requesting the conversion of 106 of those posts into support account posts). But the request for 123 additional posts did not seem justified in view of the sizable decline in the volume of peacekeeping operations. As pointed out in several of the paragraphs of its report, the Advisory Committee had reached the conclusion that the rationalization and reorganization of the functions of several Secretariat services would produce other personnel savings and thus cover the work for which the additional posts were requested. It had pointed out, for example, that there were too many small administrative units in the Secretariat, that the planning function had to be reorganized, and that the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, and the Department of Management should be reorganized. When a function had to be added, the redeployment of posts, following an in-depth evaluation, ought to produce additional staff resources. The Advisory Committee had requested that a number of evaluations of that type should be carried out and that the corresponding reports should be submitted under the next proposed budget for the support account.

41. The ACABQ recommendations were not at all arbitrary: it knew, for example, that although military peacekeeping activities had declined the United Nations had been repeatedly requested to perform police and observer tasks. It had therefore recommended approval of the posts requested by the Secretary-General for policing operations. Its recommendations were summarized in paragraph 67 of its report.

42. **Mr. Sklar** (United States of America) said that he shared the Advisory Committee's concern that the Secretariat had again been unable to justify fully its staffing and funding request for the peacekeeping support account. The United Nations peacekeeping function was of great importance to the United States, which was concerned that the peacekeeping support account should support a staff that was both effective and efficient. It was unfortunate that the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee were obliged to review the issue without the needed input from the Secretariat. The latter, despite the Fifth Committee's long debate on the support account at the second resumed session in spring 1998, had not carried out a detailed post-by-post review, a review for which his delegation would again call, hoping to engage the highest levels of the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee had done an excellent job with the information available to it, in particular with regard to the redeployment of personnel from non-critical, redundant and duplicative positions to positions that were essential for the support of missions. The concept of redeployment was going to be ever more important as the United Nations focused on fulfilment of its missions and mandates.

43. It was essential to improve coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Management. Furthermore, there were several positions critical to the missions that could benefit from additional redeployments, and the Secretariat must regard the Department of Management, the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Political Affairs as sources for such redeployments. All those departments provided support for peacekeeping operations on the ground and must be examined for redundant and duplicative positions. His delegation did not wish to engage in micromanagement, but it trusted that the Secretariat would submit detailed redeployment proposals. In its view, civilian police and military positions must be filled with suitably qualified candidates, and it would keep a watchful eye on that situation. The objectives with regard to peacekeeping support operations should be to staff all critical military positions with skilled serving military officers, to hold the total staffing level to the ACABQ recommendation of 393 peacekeeping support account positions, to hold the total funding to the $34.2 million budget level agreed upon in spring 1998, and to use redeployment effectively in order to accomplish the first three objectives. More than 14,000 people were deployed around the world in order to keep the peace and carry out very important tasks. Their welfare and quite possibly their lives were dependent upon sufficient support.

44. **Mr. Kabir** (Bangladesh) said that, since the question of compensation in case of death or disability had not been discussed, he wished to know whether the Committee would discuss the issue at a later date.

45. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would discuss that question at its next meeting, once the relevant agenda item had been introduced.

Agenda item 112: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Agenda Item 119: Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities (A/C.5/52/54/Rev.1 and A/C.5/52/56; A/53/417)

46. **Mr. Wortel** (Director, Operational Services Division, Office of Human Resources Management), speaking on behalf of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management, introduced the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/56) submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 51/243, in which the Secretary-General had been requested to report on a quarterly basis on the acceptance of gratis personnel. That report, the fourth submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to the aforementioned resolution, covered the period from 1 April through 30 June 1998. During that period, 14 new type II gratis personnel had started their service while 85 type II gratis personnel had concluded their assignments, resulting in a net decrease of 71 (from 246 to 175).

47. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the ACABQ report on acceptance of gratis personnel (A/53/417), said that the Advisory Committee still thought that the information provided in the quarterly reports was not strictly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/243. It appeared that gratis personnel had been accepted because the Secretariat found it impossible to recruit staff quickly, or that the posts had not been requested and therefore not approved. The Advisory Committee did understand that the Secretariat was in a period of transition in that respect, since it was required to phase out the use of

gratis personnel, pending the General Assembly's approval of new posts (for example, the 106 posts whose conversion into support account posts had been mentioned earlier), but it recommended that in his future quarterly reports the Secretary-General should clearly demonstrate the acceptance of gratis personnel in strict accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b) of resolution 51/243 and should supply the additional information requested in paragraph 9 of the ACABQ report.

Other Matters

48. **Ms. Incera** (Costa Rica) said that she regretted having to complain yet again about the security services outside and inside Organization premises. She wished above all to stress that the measures taken by the New York City Police, which sometimes failed to respect the positions held by members of delegations, were excessive. With regard to the internal security of Organization premises, her delegation, while recognizing that it might be necessary to strengthen protective measures for some dignitaries, considered that such measures should not, under any circumstances, prevent other dignitaries and official representatives from carrying out their duties, since no Member State took precedence over the others.

49. To be specific, elevators had been immobilized and access to the second floor restricted, hindering bilateral consultations; certain dignitaries, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, had been forced to leave through the garage rather than through the delegates' exit; delegations had been unable to use First Avenue for vehicular traffic even after the general debate had been concluded; the cash dispensers on the first floor could not be accessed by delegation members; and the inspections introduced at the entry of the Delegates' Lounge had constituted a further assault on the dignity of the representatives of developing countries.

50. Her delegation considered that the current Chief of the Security and Safety Service had not treated the representatives of Member States courteously. The United Nations Security and Safety Service was expected to comply with the basic rules of protocol and the principle of the sovereign equality of States, and to ensure that all representatives were treated equally. Her delegation intended to support the adoption of a resolution that would end such abuse.

51. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said that in a circular addressed to all delegations, the Administration had indicated that pursuant to an agreement with the host country, members of delegations with United Nations parking permits would be allowed to park their vehicles on First Avenue between 51st and 57th Streets. Nevertheless, several vehicles displaying the United Nations decal and parked within the authorized zone had been towed away. His delegation wished to know how the aforementioned arrangements had been concluded between the United Nations Administration and the host country authorities, whether changes had been made after the arrangements had been finalized, and, if that were the case, why delegations had not been informed of such changes.

52. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) said that only one official meeting had been devoted to agenda items 112 and 113 and that two new matters had been placed on the programme of work under those items — the 1998–1999 joint UNCTAD-WTO International Trade Centre budget, and the savings resulting from the efficiency measures adopted by the Centre. He hoped that those two questions would be included in the programme of work for the Wednesday, 7 October meeting, in order to allow the Group of 77 and China to develop a joint position thereon.

53. **The Chairman** said that, if there were no objections, he would agree to the request made by the representative of Indonesia. He had noted the concerns expressed with regard to security measures, and said that the remarks made on the subject of the internal security measures taken inside United Nations premises would be communicated to the Security and Safety Service at Headquarters, which would be asked to give explanations. He stressed that measures taken outside the premises were the responsibility, not of the Secretariat, but of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country. The delegations concerned were invited to raise the problems which they had encountered with that Committee.

54. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that at the previous meeting devoted to organizational matters, his delegation had remarked that several documents prepared by the Secretariat did not conform to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/214 B, whereby the General Assembly had, in paragraph 24, specified that reports should include certain elements and, in paragraph 25, decided that all documents submitted to legislative bodies for consideration and action should have conclusions and recommendations in bold print. He further noted that his delegation had complained on several occasions that documents either had not been published or had appeared late. The report on the support account had been distributed that very day and the definitive version of the two resolutions adopted in June 1998 was still not available at the document distribution desk or on the optical disk. He wished to have an explanation of the delays.

55. **The Chairman** said that he had taken note of the remarks made by the representative of Pakistan, which he would transmit to the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, requesting an explanation.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.